

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-07  
AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /135 W  
-----023285 020617Z /10

R 011650Z DEC 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8114

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJ: CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REFS: (A) STATE 272689; (B) VIENNA 9939; (C) PARIS 33733

NOTAL; (D) GENEVA 10938 (NOTAL)

1. USUN HAS REVIEWED RECORDS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE'S GENERAL DEBATE AND DEBATE ON SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR EVIDENCE THAT WOULD SUPPORT OR DISPUTE PROPOSITION THAT MEMBERSHIP IN UN IS SO COSTLY THAT IT REPRESENTS A BURDEN TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. RESULTS OF THIS REVIEW FOLLOW.

2. A TOTAL OF 21 DEVELOPING AND 20 DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TOOK PART IN THE GENERAL DEBATE, AND 30 DEVELOPING AND 19 DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TOOK PART IN THE DEBATE ON THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS. ONLY 14 OF THE 48 STATES DESIGNATED AS "MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED (MSA)" OR "LEAST DEVELOPED (LD)" TOOK PART IN ONE OR THE OTHER DEBATE.

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3. ALL STATES -- DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED -- TENDED TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR OWN ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE LOWER, AND A WIDE VARIETY OF REASONS WERE ADVANCED TO SUPPORT THEIR VIEWS. INDIA (MSA) NOTED THAT THE PROVISION IN THE BUDGET FOR INFLATION WAS ENEROUS ON THE "SMALLER CONTRIBUTORS" (A GROUP TO WHICH IT DOES NOT BELING

SINCE IT WILL BE ASSESSED .68PERCENT OF THE BUDGET) AND NEPAL (MSA AND LD) ASSERTED THAT THE MINIMUM RATE (.01PERCENT IN 1978) WAS "WELL ABOVE THE ACTUAL CAPACITY TO PAY OF MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE STATES", BUT NO DEVELOPING COUNTRY IN ANY WAY IMPLIED THAT THE FINANCIAL BURDEN WAS BECOMING TOO GREAT FOR IT, PERSONALLY. IN FACT, SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MADE STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY.

4. NEPAL, DESPITE ITS STATEMENT ABOUT THE MINIMUM ASSESSMENT, NOTED THAT THE UN BUDGET WAS LARGER THAN ITS OWN, BUT SMALLER THAN THAT FOR "SOME PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS IN A MAJOR CITY IN THE WEST", AND SO "HIS DELEGATION DID NOT WISH TO QUESTION THE MODEST INCREASE OF 2.2PERCENT" (IN REAL GROWTH).

5. SIERRA LEONE (MSA) MADE THE INTERESTING STATEMENT THAT "BEING A POOR COUNTRY, IT CONSIDERED ITS CONTRI-BUTION AS A KIND OF INVESTMENT WHICH IT HOPED WOULD BE PROFITABLE". IT ALSO SAID THAT THE INCREASED CONTRI-BUTIONS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH INCREASED NATIONAL INCOMES SHOULD BE DEPLORED TO COVER THE NEEDS OF POORER COUNTRIES. BANGLADESH (MSA) THOUGHT THAT THE SIZE OF THE BUDGET WAS "COMPATIBLE WITH THE DYNAMIC IMAGE OF THE ORGANIZATION." PAKISTAN (MSA) DIDN'T THINK THE BUDGET WAS TOO LARGE, AND BOTH SRI LANKA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(MSA) AND TOGO THOUGHT THE DEVOTING 78PERCENT OF THE BUDGET TO STAFF COSTS WAS JUSTIFIED. TOGO, IN PARTICULAR, AFFIRMED THAT THE UN SHOULD PAY WELL AND AVOID THE "SORRY SPECTACLE OF SALARY DEMANDS BY ITS STAFF WHO, DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR WORKING CONDITIONS AND PAY IN SOME LOCATIONS, HAD EVEN GONE ON STRIKE AS A LAST RESORT". FINALLY, SYRIA RECOMMENDED GIVING THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHATEVER HE WANTED, AND YUGOSLAVIA THOUGHT THE GROWTH RATE WAS MODEST.

6. AS THE FOREGOING INDICATES, ALL UN MEMBERS WANT MORE AT LESS COST, BUT NONE HAD SAID THE COST TO THEM WAS INSUPPORTABLE, INDEED THE LDC'S HAVE QUITE HAPPILY ADDED TO THEIR OWN BURDEN AT THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY RESTORING TO THE PROGRAM BUDGET ABOUT A THIRD OF A MILLION DOLLARS -- SO FAR -- THAT THE ACABQ HAD RECOMMENDED FOR ELIMINATION.

7. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, EACH MEMBER STATE RECEIVES ROUNDTRIP TRANSPORATION FOR FIVE DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (ONE TRAVELLING FIRST CLASS, FOUR TRAVELLING ECONOMY). IN ADDITION,

ROUNDTrip ECONOMY TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED  
FOR ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH MEMBER STATE  
TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF ECOSOC'S FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS.  
TAKING AS EXAMPLES FOUR STATES ASSESSED AT THE MINIMUM  
RATE OF .02PERCENT DURING 1977, ONE EACH FROM EAST ASIA,  
WEST ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA, THIS AMOUNTED TO  
APPROXIMATELY \$13,500 FOR NEPAL, \$7,600 FOR SYRIA (A  
MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION), \$11,000 FOR  
SIERRA LEONE (A MEMBER OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION,  
POPULATION COMMISSION, TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS  
COMMISSION, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION), AND  
\$1,800 FOR HAITI. DURING 1977 EACH OF THESE STATES  
WAS ASSESSED \$67,607.

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8. AS WILL BE SEEN FROM THE FOREGOING, BELONGING  
TO THE UN IS NOT A BAD DEAL FOR COUNTRIES POOR  
ENOUGH TO QUALIFY FOR THE LOWEST ASSESSMENTS.  
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